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Message Text

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12
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-05 IGA-02 L-03

NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 TAR-01 /090 W
---------- 130616
O R 070536Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2168
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, PK/ MY
SUBJ: PL 480 EDIBLE OIL PROGRAM FOR PAKISTAN

REF: 75 STATE 304587

1. EMBASSY CONSULTED WITH GOM ON JAN 6 AND RECEIVED ON JAN 7 FOLLOWING COMMENTS APPROVED BY MINISTER OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES (MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR PALM OIL):

A. QUOTE: GOM WISHES TO EXPRESS ITS DISAPPOINTEMENT OVER SHORT NOTICE GIVEN TO MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT ON USG PROPOSAL TO SELL 40,000 METRIC TONS OF SOYBEAN/COTTONSEED OIL UNDER TITLE I PL 480 TO PAKISTAN.

B. QUOTE: GOM WISHES TO INFORM USG THAT BECAUSE OF USG PROPOSAL GOM UNDERSTANDS FROM TRADE THAT PAKISTANI BUYERSWERE TIKELY TO SUSPEND COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS TO BUY PALM OIL FROM MALAYSIA.
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C. QUOTE: GOM HOPES THAT PL 480 SALE OF 40,000 METRIC TONS TO PAKISTAN WILL NOT BE REPORTED TO THIRD COUNTRIES. UNQUOTE.

2. COMMENT. CONCERN OF GOM OVER SHORT NOTICE IS REASONABLE AS THERE WERE ONLY TWO WORKING DAYS AFTER RECEIPT OF REFTEL IN WHICH TO NOTIFY GOM AND RECEIVE COMMENTS. PALM OIL IS VITAL TO MALAYSIAN INTERESTS AS SECOND LARGEST EXPORT EARNER (US$560 MILLION) IN 1975 AFTER RUBBER, AND AS A RAPIDLY EXPANDING INDUSTRY (1.2 MILLION TONS EXPORTED IN 1975; 1.5 MILLION TONS PROJECTED FOR 1976; WITH FURTHER SUBSTANTIAL NEAR-TERM INCREASES PROJECTED AS LARGE GOM PALM OIL DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES COME INTO MATURITY). UNITED STATES IS LARGEST BUYER OF MALAYSIAN PALM OIL ACCOUNTING FOR 27 PERCENT TOTAL EXPORTS IN 1975. THUS, ANY ACTIONS OR STATEMENTS BY USG RELATING TO PALM OIL, SUCH AS ABOVE PROPOSAL OR POSSIBLE USG IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON PALM OIL, RECEIVES IMMEDIATE ATTENTION AT HIGHEST LEVELS OF GOM. BECAUSE OF THE CONFLICTING INTERESTS OF USG AND GOM IN EDIBLE OILS AREA, PALM OIL HAS POTENTIAL OF BECOMING AN IRRITANT IN US-MALAYSIAN RELATIONS. UNDERHILL

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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